

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/045,877

Examiner

Allyson N Sanders

Applicant(s)

MOTTA ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed September 9, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16, 18-20 and 24-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed September 9, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. In the previous office action, claims 3-7, 10-14, and 18-35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the after-final amendment, claims 17 and 21-23 were canceled and claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 18, 24-26, 30, 32, and 34 were amended. Claim 1 is currently amended to include the recitations of claim 21 (now canceled) and is now equivalent to claim 21 rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 is amended to include the recitations claim 22 (now canceled) and is now equivalent to claim 22 rewritten in independent form. Claim 15 is amended to include the recitations of claims 17 and 23 (now canceled) and is now equivalent to claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 10, 18, and 24-26 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 30 depends from claim 1 and is amended to delete the recitations already present in amended claim 1. Claim 32 depends from claim 8 and is amended to delete the recitations already present in amended claim 8. Claim 34 depends from claim 15 and is amended to delete the recitations already present in amended claim 15. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-14, 16, 19, 20, and 27-35 depend variously from allowable claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 18, and 24-26. Therefor claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-14, 16, 19, 20, and 27-35 are also allowable.

The following is an examiner's for allowance: Although Heller et al teaches an imaging system comprising an image sensor, a memory, and a processor, and furthermore teaches the sensor and the memory being implemented in a single integrated circuit, the above identified prior art of record, taken alone, or in combination with any other prior art, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific features which are present in the dependent claims listed above. These features consist of the following: the imaging system described in claim 1 wherein the diagnostic mode enables the imaging system to be tested using a testing system. The testing system includes the following components, a test controller, different from the processor, which generates instructions for controlling test operations of the testing system; the testing system provides a set of light stimuli for the image sensor in response to the instructions; and the processor generates test results based on the digital image data indicating whether the image sensor is defective. Prior art additionally fails to teach the following regarding the imaging system taught above: prior to operating the image sensor in the normal operating mode, no physical modifications are made to the image sensor in response to identifying one or more defective pixels in the image sensor during the diagnostic mode and not performing diagnostic testing on the image sensor to identify one or more defective pixels in the image sensor prior to assembling the image sensor into a packaged image sensor. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to come to the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson Sanders* whose telephone number is (703) 305-5779. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.sanders@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allyson Sanders
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
November 4, 2003